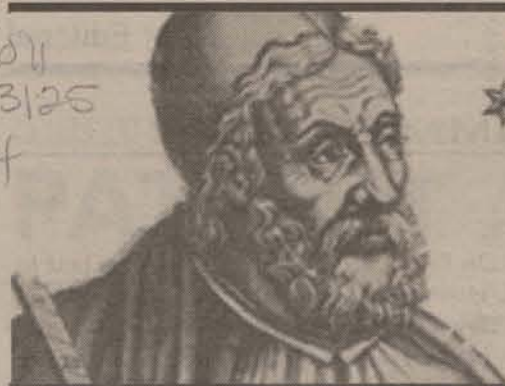


Lab
LD3125
A4



the ALMAGEST

Louisiana State University in Shreveport

Thursday, February 16, 2006

by Kisha Blackshire

Several movies have recently come to the Shreveport-Bossier area giving students the opportunity to enjoy a little taste of the spotlight, including "The Guardian," which filmed a scene at the LSUS HPE building. This film is about the relationship between a U.S. Coast Guard rescue swimmer, portrayed by Kevin Costner, and a young prodigy, played by Ashton Kutcher. The film is scheduled for release in September by Buena Vista Pictures.

"It's a huge Coast Guard film, so it's great that the local guys of Barksdale Air Force Base are able to help out," said Marty Cherrix, extras casting director.

Lindsey Hudson, senior public relations major, played a waitress during the "bar fight" scene shot at the Phillin' Station on East Kings Highway.

"I've never been a waitress so it was funny," she said. "It was a great opportunity to see how the film was made and to watch different angles....it takes so much detail."

Hudson also explained that, because of her experience as an extra, she planned to be a part of other films in the future as well as train to become a stunt double.

"It will make me watch the movie with a greater appreciation of how movies are made," she said.

The streets of downtown Shreveport were made to look like the streets of Manhattan for the film "Factory Girl" set in the late 1960's New York. The film is based on the rise and fall of Edie Sedgwick, portrayed by Sienna Miller, who wanted to become famous but died tragically of a drug overdose.

The excitement of being a part of a major film in many cases outweighs the hard work needed to

put into a scene.

John Richie, a former LSUS student, said, "It can be a bit tedious working 12 to 14 hour days for six weeks. You kind of wish you had a 'nine to five' job."

Richie operated camera during the shooting of the film. He was working in the New Orleans film industry before Hurricane Katrina.

"The estimated time of release for the movie, with the editing process and marketing taken into consideration, should be approximately some time next year," he said.

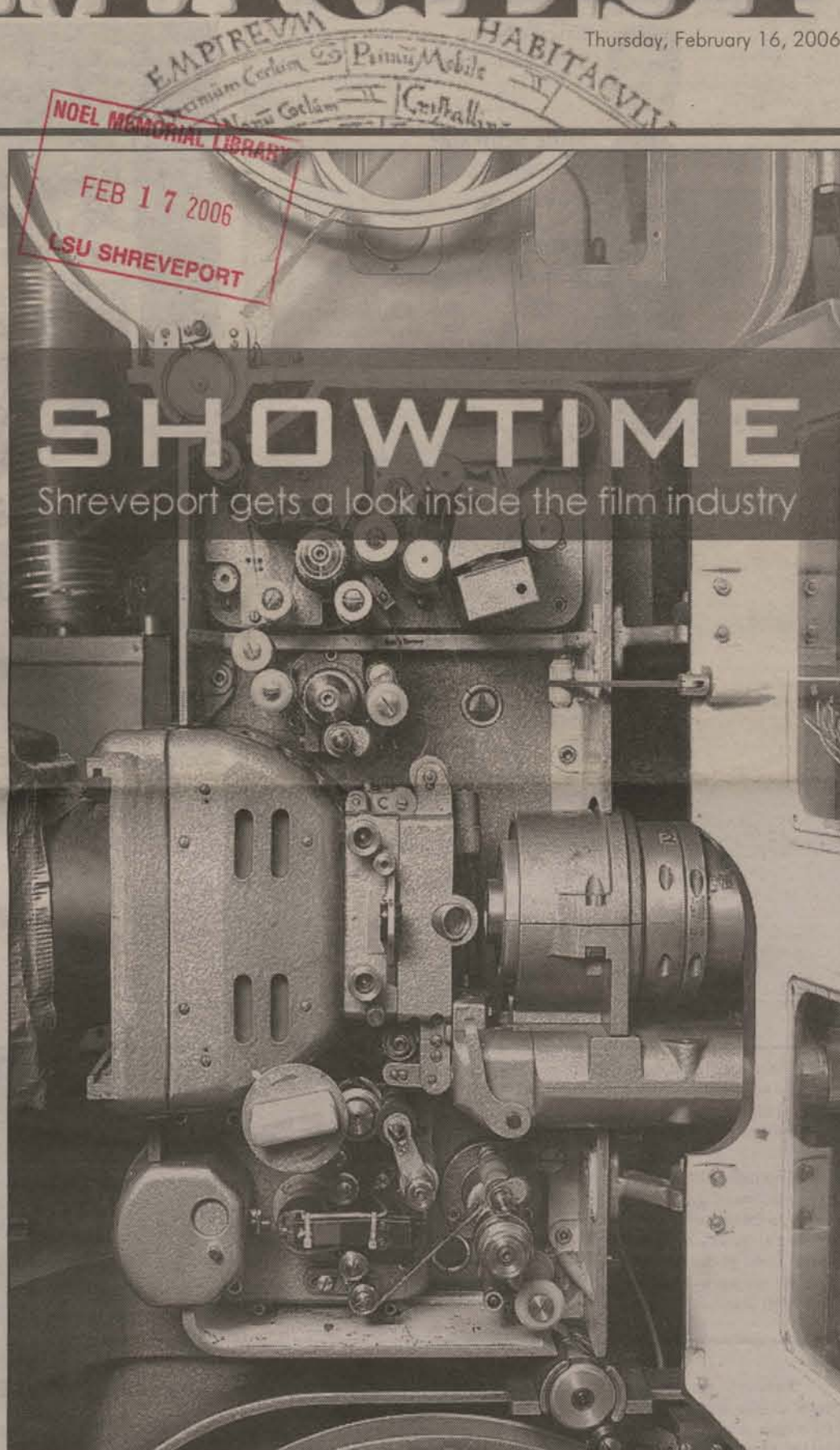
Guy Pearce, Jimmy Fallon and Hayden Christensen also star in the movie.

Residents are hoping to keep the film industry in the area and enhancing the Shreveport-Bossier movie business. Nikki Neal, film and communications coordinator and senior journalism major, helps make this happen.

"We assist production companies and show them the resources available," Neal said.

Scenes for "Premonition" will also be shot here, one location being Creswell Elementary School. The film, starring Sandra Bullock, is about a woman who has a troubling premonition about her husband and her journey to try to stop it from occurring.

Filming for "The Guardian" will end about mid-March, but an opportunity still exists for people to become extras in some of the remaining scenes. Cherrix, who has been a casting director for over 14 years, explained that if someone is interested in becoming an extra to mail in a recent picture with a name, address, height, weight and all contact numbers to 1545 Line Ave., Suite 222 in Shreveport.



NATIONAL • 3



PATRIOT Act

Right to privacy or for the greater good?

CAMPUS • 5



Basketball

Lady Pilots continue comeback, Pilots still going strong

the **Almagest**

Volume 48, Issue 4

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Suzanne Bright, faculty adviser

"Almagest" is an Arabic word meaning "great" or "majestic." It is also the title of a book written by the ancient astronomer Ptolemy who is pictured on the front page of our paper.

Editorial Policy

The information presented in this publication by no means reflects the opinions of the administration or staff of LSUS. *The Almagest* seeks to provide information for the LSUS campus and community; to involve students, faculty and staff; and to provide a public forum for ideas as guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution. Comments and complaints are welcome and should be addressed to Eric Pulsifer, Editor-in-Chief. They must be accompanied by your full name and e-mail address.

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor are encouraged. However, the staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, and content. Any letter submitted by a club or organization must be signed by all members of the group or by the group's president. Letters should be submitted to the Almagest office, BH 344, by 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Please type the letter and include your classification and major. *The Almagest* reserves the right not to publish submitted materials. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed.

The Almagest is published on Thursday mornings and is printed by the Natchitoches Times.

Corrections

No corrections this issue.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

On Feb. 9, Coretta Scott King was laid to rest. History will remember her as the wife of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., but she was as integral to civil rights activism as her esteemed husband.

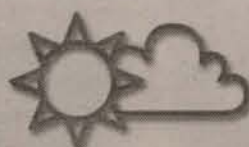
Unfortunately, her funeral turned into a political event. President Bush, who attended the funeral, was attacked for all of his policies that had nothing to do with Coretta Scott King. The attackers received standing ovations.

This incident has incited debate worldwide over what is right and respectable for a funeral. In fact, the topic roused the ire of several Almagest staff members.

But what didn't seem to bother anybody was that the university didn't do its little part to honor King. Whenever this country loses someone who made a real impact on this country—an astronaut, a president, a civil rights leader—the flag is supposed to be lowered to half-staff as a sign of mourning. In fact, the lowering of the flag for King's funeral was a presidential decree.

Yet while Bush was being heckled at King's funeral in Atlanta, the flag between Bronson Hall and the Sciences Building remained unchanged. I would think that a state institution would pay closer attention to issues of this magnitude.

Who is responsible for the raising and lowering of the flag on campus? Are they too lazy or forgetful to lower the flag? Perhaps they didn't want to mourn? Moreover, did anybody notice?

Mike Schwalke
Managing Editor**Girls & SPORTS****WEATHER****TODAY:**
Mostly cloudy
Hi: 77 Lo: 47**FRIDAY:**
Showers
Hi: 52 Lo: 40**SATURDAY:**
T-Showers
Hi: 46 Lo: 32**SUNDAY:**
Few showers
Hi: 43 Lo: 37**MONDAY:**
Few showers
Hi: 60 Lo: 46**TUESDAY:**
Few showers
Hi: 53 Lo: 37**WEDNESDAY:**
Showers
Hi: 49 Lo: 43

Alarminglly Orwellian or truly American?**PATRIOT Act extension stirs controversy**

by Terry Hanley

On Feb. 1 Congress signed a 5-week extension on the controversial PATRIOT Act.

Amidst the National Security Agency's wiretapping scandal, Congress approved to continue the bill until Mar. 10 to allow for more time for open discussion to aid in revising the statute.

"The PATRIOT Act went too far too fast," said Joe Cook, executive director of the Louisiana branch of the ACLU. "The changes proposed still do not address our concerns."

According to the ACLU, Sections 213, 215, and 505 of the PATRIOT Act are of the utmost concern. Section 213 addresses illegal search and seizures by the FBI, which the ACLU

claims is a violation of American's fourth amendment rights.

Dr. Jeffery Sadow, associate professor of political science, said, "The PATRIOT Act renewal is a non-issue. It merely gives the government investigatory powers in the area of national security that it has in other areas of criminal activity."

So does the PATRIOT Act infringe on the basic freedoms Americans possess, and are U.S. citizens concerned?

According to "US News & World Report," recent polling conducted after the exposure of the NSA's wiretapping program shows "the American population is divided on the issue of security." A USA Today/CNN/Gallup poll showed that 51 percent of Americans

feel that the government is wrong to seize information without a warrant. The Pew Research center conducted a poll in which only 33 percent responded negatively to the government's warrantless surveillance.

Dr. Micheal Leggiere, chair of the department of history and social sciences, said "I always look at it this way: If a person has nothing to hide, then they should not be bothered by the possibility of having their conversation listened to." He also said, "I support the government."

NSA wiretapping is aimed at overseas phone conversations and Internet activities, exposing Americans to the possibility of being monitored by the FBI.

The ACLU is suing the NSA over the program. They feel the program is a violation of the U.S. Constitution.

Louisiana's ACLU director

Cook said of the lawsuit, "We want to find out under what authority the government is operating. We want to find out what the government is up to."

"If a person has nothing to hide, then they should not be bothered by the possibility of having their conversation listened to."

Dr. Micheal Leggiere
History and Social Sciences
Chair



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Duo enchants with cello, piano

by Ragan Dickens

A concert featuring two artists filled the LSUS University Theater with melodic sounds on Thursday during common hour.

The Piatigorsky Foundation came to LSUS for the fourth time, this time featuring a cellist and a pianist.

The duo preformed Bruch's "Kol Nidrei" and Dvorak's "Concerto in B Minor", which was the last piece written by the composer while in the United States. Evan Drachman, the cellist, started the Foundation in honor of his renowned grandfather, the cellist Gregor Piatigorsky.

The Foundation's mission is to bring classical music to areas where it might not be quite so prevalent.

"I have always been a blues fan, but I am getting more and more interested in classical music. I am always looking for concerts of this

nature to attend," said Travis Foy, junior political science major.

Pianist Lisa Bergman accompanied Drachman in the performance. Bergman's accomplishments include a performance at Carnegie Hall. She has committed to more than 60 engagements a year, playing in countries such as Canada, Europe and Japan. She is also the executive director of the Icicle Creek Music Center in Winthrop, Wash.

The concert, sponsored by the James Smith Noel Collection, brought a large crowd to the theater.

Attendants included many students, professors and citizens from around the community.

"It is wonderful to be back in Louisiana. The warmth of the people here make it wonderful to perform in this environment," said Drachman.

Ivy Brightwell, sophomore biochemistry major, said, "Having a

deep love for music, I wish the university would offer more classical concerts to the students. Why not have something that everyone can enjoy."

Dr. La Wanda Blakeney, associate professor of music, was pleased with the outcome of the concert. She described the performance as "awesome and inspiring."

Blakeney was very hopeful for the future of bringing more classical events to the school. The famed Piatigorsky said before his death, "music makes life better. Music is neither a luxury nor a frill—it is a necessity! It is imaginative, and it is for everyone."

The Foundation will perform 220 times in 18 states before the season is closed. Mary Beth Lavery, senior general studies major, said, "For those interested in hearing a wonderful composition of music, this was the concert to attend."



TERRY HANLEY

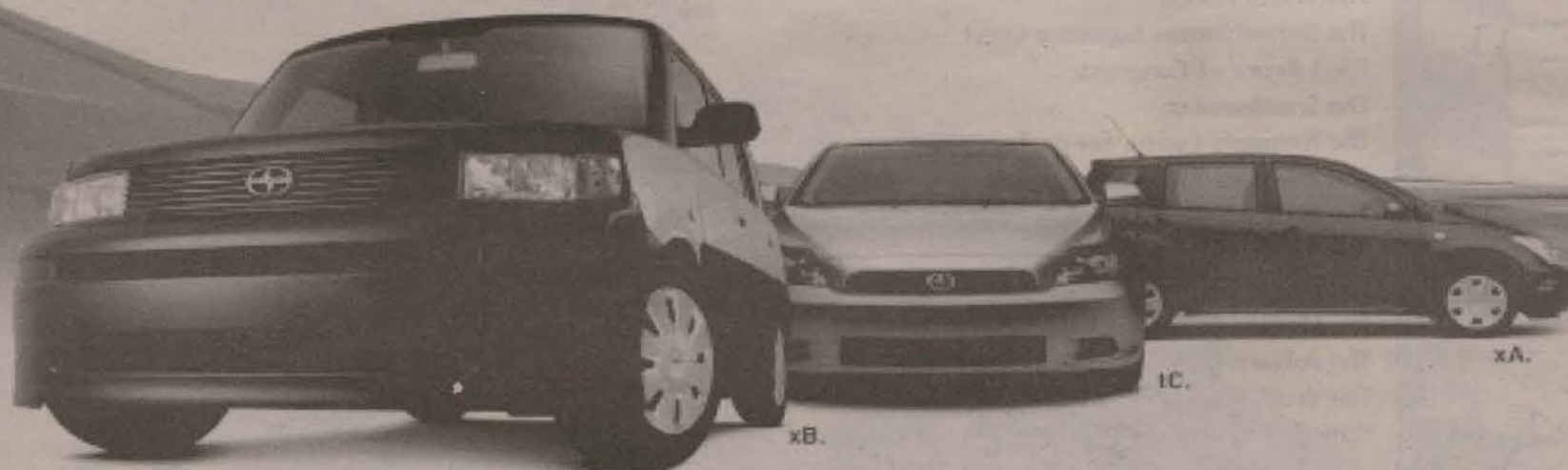
Drachman displays his grandfather's cello.

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SPORTS UPDATE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

2/9 vs. Southern University NO
SUNO (1-10, 1-10) 37 49 - 86
LSUS (22-3, 9-2) 55 57 - 112

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2/11 vs. Arkansas Baptist College
ABC 22 23 45
LSUS (12-9) 44 45 89

UPCOMING GAMES

Men's Basketball

2/18 vs. Springhill College*
2/23 vs. Loyola University*

Women's Basketball

2/18 vs. Springhill College*
2/20 Arkansas Baptist College

*home games

LSUS basketball

Lady Pilots massacre Lady Buffaloes; Pilots shame Knights

by Chrissy Chiri

The LSUS Pilots and Lady Pilots won their games by blow-out scores last week, tacking on wins to their overall winning records.

The nationally ranked Pilots played a conference game against last-place Southern University of New Orleans on Thursday in Baton Rouge and won 112-86.

With a very small crowd on hand, the Pilots (22-3, 9-2) immediately jumped out on top due their run-and-gun style of play. They shot 51 percent from the field and connected on seven of 11 from the free throw line.

The SUNO squad also shot well, making 59 percent of their shots, but only managed to get off 29 shots compared to the Pilots' 41 shots.

Because of the team's on-fire shooting, the Pilots went into the locker room at half-time with a score of 55-37.

To begin the second half of the game, the Pilots showed no mercy and got the ball to post player Jeremy Johnston. He pounded the offensive boards and finished the night with a game-high 26 points.

"It felt really nice scoring the points that I did, and it felt really nice winning. We don't need to lose anymore games," Johnston said. "We will use this win to beat Springhill next."

The Pilots ended the game with 10 of its 11 players scoring, with six players in double figures.

Senior guard Fredericko Payne had 19 points from three of six 3-point shooting; senior post Shadrach Roome had 14 points and eight rebounds; and junior guard Josh Porter had 13 points off of three of four 3-point shooting.

Senior forward Derrick Sowell also had 12 points and junior guard Carlton Simmons had 11 points. Senior point guard Kyle Blankenship had a game-high 11 assists in the win.

On the women's side, the Lady Pilots dominated non-conference opponent Arkansas Baptist College on Saturday at the Dock, 89-45.

The women took the lead early and never looked back. The Lady Buffaloes could not handle LSUS' full-court pressure and turned the ball over a total of 17 times.

Although the Lady Pilots did not

have their best first half in terms of shooting, sophomore forward Amanda Castle had 13 rebounds. The score at the half was 44-23.

The Lady Pilots (12-9, 3-6) caught fire in the second half, shooting 44 percent from the three-point line and 50 percent from the field.

Nine of the 10 Lady Pilot players scored in the game, and five of them ended the game in double figures. Castle finished the game with 15 points and 19 rebounds.

"It felt good and felt bad (to play that well) because I know I have the potential to do it every night," Castle stated. "I think this win will help us because we shot the ball extremely well, so I think it'll roll into the next game against Springhill."

Senior forward Marcia Spychalski had 15 points and seven rebounds. Leading Pilot scorer Jessica Kelly, junior guard, scored 14 points; sophomore post Kacie Cryer had 13 points; and freshman post Janai Sells had 11 points.

Both teams will return to the court on Saturday, Feb. 18 against conference foes Springhill College. Tip-off will be at 5 p.m. at LSUS.

SGA UPDATE

Topics discussed at the Feb. 10 SGA meeting:

- Mascot draft proposal passed
- Jessica Beech appointed Vice President
- Shay Paschal appointed President Pro Temp
- Mayte Pino appointed Senator
- Shantelle Ceasar appointed Student Conduct Board representative
- Check Blackboard page to look for announcements

SGA meetings are open to the public and are held every Friday at noon in the Webster Room of the UC.

Chances of "Vagina Monologues" returning seem slim

by Coleman Robison

Three years ago, "Vagina Monologues" made its way onto the LSUS campus. Inspired by V-Day—a movement started to raise money and awareness in order to help prevent violence against women—"Vagina Monologues" is a celebration of female sexuality in all its complexity and mystery and is now performed throughout the world in 24 different languages. But making its way back to LSUS for a second time has proved impossible.

"Last semester it was postponed, as we had a problem with availability of actors," said Jorji Jarzabek, instructor of communications and Drama Club student adviser.

According to Jarzabek, the drama club had heard of the play's being performed in the Shreveport area. The club, being primarily women, thought that such a performance would have social significance.

"The 'Vagina Monologues' is still timely. These issues are not gone," said Jarzabek.

But with Valentine's Day having passed, the play could not be

arranged in time.

Irina Schafer, junior fine arts major, said, "I think what happened with this show was that this semester hit the officers (of the Drama Club) harder than we had imagined early on, and the timeline we allowed ourselves was not sufficient."

According to Suzanne Salvaterra, drama club student president, not only was time an issue, but funds were an obstacle as well. The UC has a new policy where any function which accepts money at the door, donations included, must provide two hours worth of security.

"Security, which cannot be campus police, charges \$25 to \$30 per hour," said Salvaterra. "We just did not have it in our budget. We also found out a week ago that we did not have to pay royalties."

Despite failed attempts at the "Vagina Monologues" and its seemingly permanent cancellation, the drama club is moving forward. According to Schaffer, the semester is really about trying to build a following. It has fun ideas planned for Spring Fling, including activities like

a make-up demo.

"We want to get the word out that drama is fun, and for those people on campus who may not be so sports oriented, here's a fun alternative," said Schaffer.

On top of expansion, the club has two other productions in store: one, untitled, directed by Robert Alford, assistant professor of communications, at the end of March, and the other, "The Woolgatherer"—a 1980 play by William Mastrosimone of an encounter between a truck driver and a salesgirl—directed by Jarzabek and being performed at the end of April.

"That show is going to get underway in the next several weeks, so keep an eye out around campus for flyers," said Schaffer.

The drama club will also be focusing on a possible membership drive and participation and will be building and painting a set for Fairfield Magnet Elementary School's spring musical.

"This semester is still a planning stage for the Drama Club," said Salvaterra.

In other news

Zoo tries to mate gay penguins

How does this sound for a movie title, "Brokeback Penguins?" This is no movie though. A German zoo is trying to get six gay penguins to mate with females within the species to prevent them from going extinct. Zoo officials say that out of the 10 male penguins at the facility, the six homosexual penguins prefer male company over the females and have even formed couples amongst themselves. Zoo officials insist they are not trying to enforce heterosexuality among the birds.

Hunters beware: Dick Cheney is on the prowl

Quail hunting is deadly business. Just ask Austin attorney Harry Whittington who was shot by Vice President Dick Cheney while together on a hunting trip last weekend. Whittington apparently walked up behind Cheney unannounced and got in the line of fire as Cheney unleashed a spray of bullet pellets. Whittington was in stable condition at a Corpus Christi hospital and sustained shotgun pellets in the cheek, neck and chest. Later Whittington suffered a mild heart attack but is expected to make a full recovery. Cheney is only the second Vice President to shoot a man while in office.

Dentist writes prescriptions in exchange for sex

A Massachusetts dentist pleaded not guilty to charges he wrote fraudulent prescriptions for drug addicts in exchange for sex. Police claim Dr. Joseph T. Matarazzo, 77, allegedly wrote more than 100 phony prescriptions over a two-year span for people who were known by authorities to be drug addicts. Matarazzo, who has been a dentist for 52 years and has no prior criminal record, surrendered his dentist's license that he obtained in 1953.

Fortune cookies contain x-rated messages

Hundreds of fortune cookies stuffed with graphically obscene messages were mistakenly delivered to a fundraiser hosted by a Brooklyn politician. The "nasty" cookies got mixed up with a batch of 1,750 cookies ordered for the Chinese New Year event. Only 80 people out of the 700 who attended were still present when the cookies began circulating around the party. "I'm sure they were meant for a raunchy bachelor party. They were not cutesy. Triple X to say the least," said Borough President Marty Markowitz.

Woman charged with "smuggling human head"

A Haitian woman was charged with smuggling a human skull in her suitcase on a flight from Fort Lauderdale's airport last Friday. Myrlene Severe said the head was "sent to her from Haiti and was used as a part of her voodoo beliefs and to ward off evil spirits." U.S. prosecutors also charged Severe with failing to declare the head on a customs declaration form and transporting hazardous material because the skull still contained "organic matter."

Woman goes to police station for pot

A female student from North Dakota University is facing charges after allegedly going to a police station looking to buy marijuana. The 20-year-old student called the station at about 3:15 a.m. Saturday morning and asked where she could buy some pot. A dispatcher told her that police had some stashed in the station's evidence locker. She showed up 45 minutes later and handed the dispatcher \$3 and was then arrested.

Astrophysicist puts perspective on universe for full house



Shoeless astrophysicist Neil DeGrasse Tyson combats mathematical illiteracy.

by Mike Schwalke

Renowned astrophysicist Dr. Neil DeGrasse Tyson received a standing ovation from a packed UC Theatre on Feb. 9 after his presentation "The Cosmic Connection."

True to the title, Tyson's speech crescendoed at the cosmic level. His mathematical and motivational message stair-stepped from the number one to numbers too big to count to put perspective on the universe and humanity's place within in.

"(I want to) put a big vision in front of everyone," Tyson said. "The goal is to present the universe in a way that would force you to reflect—to get enough fundamental themes in there without going over

anybody's head."

Despite a laundry list of academic credentials, Tyson was a dynamic and animated speaker. His presentation centered on those aspects of science that would seduce and excite young minds: The emergent studies of newly-discovered galaxies, the origins of the universe, the birth of new stars and the frontiers of dark matter and dark energy.

"The brain isn't just for knowing things—that's the least interesting thing about the brain," he said during his speech. "I'm just telling you to evoke your capacity to deduce."

Dr. Cynthia Sisson, professor of physics and chair of the department of chemistry and physics, said,

"Students of mine went just for extra credit, but they're glad they went." Sisson estimated over 300 people attended the lecture.

Dr. Laura Whitlock, assistant professor of physics, was chiefly responsible for bring Tyson to LSUS. "The turnout was great," she said. "It shows that there's an interest on campus and in Shreveport to learn about space."

In addition to drawing students and fans of all ages from across the state, Tyson's presence also attracted Sarah Worley Howard, co-founder of the Ralph W. Worley Observatory, who has not been to Shreveport since her mother's death in 1994. Worley Howard now lives in Tallahassee, Fla.

Howard, a scientist of note in her own right, worked for Boeing on the Apollo II project as a young woman in the 1960s.

"He was perfect," she said of Tyson. "He's one of the best astronomers today."

Catherine Cole, senior mathematics major, said, "It was entertaining—the way he approached the content."

Joshua Hignight, a sophomore at Louisiana Tech studying both physics and math, drove in from Ruston for the presentation. "(Tyson) put a perspective rather well on how small we are in relation to everything else," he said. "I was expecting something a little more scientific—more astrophysics. But I'm still walking away happy." Before his speech, Tyson said, "There's an appetite for the universe that is real, and I have the opportunity to feed that appetite."

Tyson claims to receive an average of six speaking requests per week from which he chooses two or three engagements per month. He is currently editing "Death by Black Hole," a collection of his best essays from his column in "Natural History" magazine. The book will be available at the end of the summer.

Whitlock is hopeful that she can attract more speakers of Tyson's caliber. She is already planning to bring Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, the first American woman to walk in space, to speak. Sullivan, who worked on repairing the Hubble telescope, is primarily an environmental scientist.

"Her perspective (on the universe) is different (than Tyson's), but no less inspiring," said Whitlock. "(My goal is) to get kids excited by science and hopefully keep them that way."

by eric pulsifer

Making it big is normally a daunting task for small-time, amateur bands. Some bands play for years and years to no avail, while other bands seem to be overnight success stories. Arctic Monkeys are the fortunate few; they leave most bands' rise-to-fame time in the dust.

Buzz for the band built quickly, eventually exploding into a wildfire of word-of-mouth recommendations and press praises. After showing reluctance to signing with a record label, they penned a deal with Domino Records, a label that works with more than a fair share of indie rock royalty (Franz Ferdinand, Will Oldham, Stephen Malkmus, Four Tet, Hood, the Notwist). In a matter of months the band rose from obscurity to releasing the best selling debut in U.K. chart history (beating out other massively hyped debuts from the likes of the Libertines and Franz Ferdinand). On the day of its release, it sold more than the rest of the top 20 albums combined.

British music mag "NME" is partially to blame for the hoopla. They named the band's debut the fifth best British album of all time within the month of its release. "The New York Times" didn't help matters when they said you "probably won't hear a better CD all year long." You will.

While not on the level of, say the Futureheads' or the Libertines' debuts, "Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not" is an impressive album regardless. Like a hunting trip with the Vice President, Arctic Monkeys' debut seems safe enough, but may surprise you. Sure there's nothing here that hasn't been heard before, but that doesn't mean it's not good.

Fronted by 20-year-old Alex Turner, Arctic Monkeys' songs cover such serious matters as being bored, breaking rules and thinking about girls. While the subjects of Turner's songs may be typical, they're well-written: witty, packed with details and catchy after only a couple of listens.

Aside from the songwriting, Arctic Monkeys are a pretty formulaic guitar band. They serve up the obligatory slow song with "Riot Van," the album's weakest track. Their debut has plenty of high-points: "From the Ritz to the Rubble," "I Bet You Look Good on the Dancefloor" and "Dancing Shoes."

While Arctic Monkeys could never live up to the hype that precedes them, their album is a definite keeper. It may not make them the Oasis-level superstars that some are predicting, but I guess we'll have to wait until after their debut hits American soil on Tuesday to know for sure.



Arctic Monkeys

Whatever I Say I Am, That's What I'm Not

10 Noteworthy British Debuts from 2005

- "A Certain Trigger" by Maximo Park
- "Arular" by M.I.A.
- "Cuts Across The Land" by The Duke Spirit
- "Employment" by Kaiser Chiefs
- "Engineers" by Engineers
- "Field Music" by Field Music
- "For Screening Purposes Only" by Test Icicles
- "Home Sweet Home" by Kano
- "Silent Alarm" by Bloc Party
- "The Magic Numbers" by the Magic Numbers

Feb. 14 New Releases: Babyshambles "Down In Albion," Sing-Sing "Sing Sing And I," The Subways "Young For Eternity," Crush Kill Destroy "Metric Midnight," Magnet "Tourniquet," Matchbook Romance "Voices," My Morning Jacket "At Dawn & Tennessee Fire Demos" [reissue], New Radiant Storm King "The Steady Hand," Outkast "Idlewild," Subways "Young For Eternity," Sword "Age of Winters," Young and Sex "Panic When You Find It"

Chris: Two women being burned alive in a tanning bed sounds like an interesting way to die in a horror movie, huh? Well it's not. "Final Destination 3" was a butt nugget sent to us from New Line entertainment. You would think the company who brought us the epic "Lord of The Rings" movies would have had better sense than to insult its audience.

Derrick: Not quite how I would have said it but accurate nonetheless. "Final Destination" made just about every mistake ever seen in a horror movie, from the stereotypical depictions of the people in the film -- white girls named Ashley who love tanning and say, "like totally" -- to the atrocious acting.

Chris: The first two weren't masterpieces by any means, but this installment made them look Oscar-worthy. There were a few inconsistencies in the movie too. The initial action that caused the disaster should have been prevented by the protagonist's intervening, yet mayhem still ensued with no explanation.

Derrick: For modern-day horror films, I thought the first two installments were first rate. The acting was spot on, the death scenes were gruesome and the concept was still fresh. I expected more from this film, especially since James

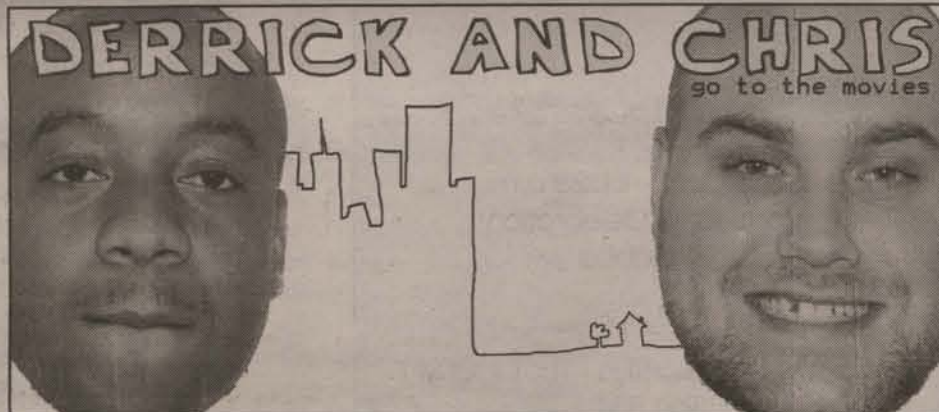
Wong, the director from the first film, returned to direct this movie.

Chris: It was a mess. The one thing I can give this movie was that the deaths were real grotesque. It seems like that's the only thing they improved in this sequel.

Derrick: I thought the death scenes in this movie were the worst of the three. It wasn't always clear how characters ended up in the unfortunate predicaments they were in. I blame that partly on the poor camera angles used throughout the movie.

Chris: I felt the same way about the choreography. Sometimes I saw how a person died and other times I didn't. Some of the deaths were very predictable. There were many hints about how most characters were going to die before the actual occurrence.

Derrick: It didn't seem like the movie flowed very well either. In between the two main characters' running around trying to alert the unsuspecting victims of death's plan, nothing ever happened. In the other films, death was constantly making attempts on each character's life. Death appeared to be a little lazy in this film because there was only one occasion where the unseen entity attempted to extinguish the main characters' lives before the end of the movie.



"Final Destination 3"

Starring: Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Ryan Merriman, Texas Battle, Gina Holden, Dustin Milligan

Chris: It seemed like they had Bull and Crap to fill the space between people getting killed. Maybe they weren't worthy of death's touch because I know they weren't worthy of my viewing.

Derrick: Sitting here thinking back, the only thing this movie was good for was a good laugh. You know a horror movie is bad when you find humor in the way characters get killed.

Chris: Well in my personal experience with horror movies, funny is sometimes good. "Final Destination 3" was funny but not in a good way. It had every cliché and formulaic event ever thought of -- for example: people using phrases like "I'm alive" and then getting killed directly afterwards. It was crap piled on

top of crap with a side order of monkey crap. Enough said.

Derrick: It bothers me to give this movie such a bad review because I really wanted to like it. The success of the first two had me eagerly awaiting this film's release, only to be let down by a movie wrought with clichés, bad acting and nonsensical events. With a little more work, this could have been just as entertaining as its predecessors. If you see this movie, know that your final destination after it's over will be to the bathroom to vomit up all the garbage this two-hour disaster forced down your throat.



Derrick



Chris

Calendar of Events

Thursday, February 16

10:25 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Freestyle Poems
The Port

7 p.m.

Movie Night - "Ray"
UC Theater

Sunday, February 19

3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

ZTA Meeting
UC

Tuesday, February 21

10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Writing Workshop
BH 201

Thursday, February 23

10:25 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.

Mardi Gras Celebration
UC Lobby

10:25 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.

Coffee House Series - That 1 Guy
The Port

10:30 a.m.

Biology Club Meeting
SLA

Basketball Overtime Party
After the game in the UC lobby

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A L D A L H C L G R L L N U Y O S E N G S S E O C E E
H E A N D O E L E N E I S O O T N D G B S B A E R S
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S S I L U A E S I D M S E E B I E E D C E D N N S A

LSUS radio telescope in shipping limbo

by Mickeal Key

A 7-foot-wide instrument resembling a satellite dish will soon be erected on top of the roof of the Sciences Building.

Dr. Laura Whitlock, assistant professor of physics, intends to build a radio telescope for an astronomy course with a lab. "I think it will be a fun course," said Whitlock.

The current telescope used in the astronomy lab has one glaring problem: the telescope uses visible light to allow the user to see into space. This means the user's view can be obstructed by bad weather.

This also makes the current as-

tronomy lab inefficient because students can complete lab exercises only on days that have good weather.

According to Whitlock the radio telescope is different in that the image is formed using radio waves from space. This will make new and existing labs more efficient. Whitlock also said many different objects in space, such as hydrogen gas clouds, can be seen with a radio telescope and cannot be seen with a regular telescope.

It has been about six months since Whitlock ordered the telescope and was given word recently that it might arrive in May.

"Once it gets here it will take

about a month to put together," she said. She also needs some students to help her during the summer sessions to complete the project.

The purchase and construction of the radio telescope was made possible by a grant Whitlock received from the Louisiana Board of Regents.

This grant not only provided the radio telescope and a computer to operate it, but it also allowed her to go to the Hayshak Observatory operated by MIT in Massachusetts so she could develop the new astronomy course that will be offered in the fall. Whitlock said the course will be "something different the students can enjoy."